

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW PROGRAM (CFRP)

In August 1991, statutes (RSMo 210.192, et al.) became effective that required the establishment of a CFRP panel in each county to evaluate all child fatalities and to review in detail, those where the cause of death was unknown, suspicious or of community concern.

The local panels include staff from the CD, juvenile court, coroner/medical examiner, prosecutor, law enforcement, health professionals and other community members. Regional coordinators and a state review panel were appointed by the DSS Director to assist the county CFRP panels. These efforts all reflect Missouri's response and compliance to requirements as set forth in PL 105-89.

The State Technical Assistance Team (STAT), as stated above, has primary responsibility for the operation and management of the CFRP process, and has responsibility for:

- Development and support of an efficient and effective delivery system (regional coordinators, metro case coordinators, State oversight panel, etc.)
- Providing direct field investigation assistance on a 24 hour basis
- Training and support of 115 county-based CFRP panels
- Providing services and assistance as necessary
- Collecting child fatality information and data that identifies patterns of risk
- Encouraging communities, organizations and agencies to develop deterrent and prevention strategies that reduce child injuries and fatalities.

The goals of the Child Fatality Review Program include:

- The maintenance of a database involving ongoing surveillance of all child fatalities.
- A continuous commitment to train professionals involved in the evaluation/investigation of child fatalities.
- The identification, support and implementation of state and local prevention initiatives that respond to identified risks to children. The local CFRP panel can take immediate steps to address risks by responding to circumstances surrounding a death. STAT can identify statewide trends and patterns, and encourage more global solutions.

When a CFRP panel reviews a death, there are data collection forms that are completed and sent to STAT. Monthly statistics are maintained and updated frequently as data is received from multiple sources (local agencies, birth and death records, etc.). In calendar year 2003 (CY-03), 1,186 children age 17 and under died in Missouri. Of those deaths, 1,186 were determined to be "Missouri

incident fatalities” and, therefore, subject to review by the coroner or medical examiner. Of this number, 467 had an indication for review by a county Child Fatality Review Panel and 433 were reviewed. In calendar year 2004 (CY-04), preliminary data indicates that 1,149 children age 17 and under died in Missouri. Of those deaths, 1,032 were determined to be “Missouri incident fatalities” and, therefore, subject to review by the coroner or medical examiner. Of this number, 447 had an indication for review by a county Child Fatality Review Panel and 373 were reviewed.